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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Jugoslavia	DATE: 138038 25X
SUBJECT Mining Activity	DIST. 25 December 1947 25X
ORIGIN	SUPPLEMENT
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- The Germans, during their occupation of Yugoslavia, were responsible for considerable progress in the mining industry. They succeeded in increasing preduction by at least 300 percent during the war but, because of transport difficulties, large quantities of ore were left in stockpiles. After the German evacuation of Serbia, this material "es available to the "l'to regime. The mining machinery installed during the German occupation was of great value to the country but nearly half of it was removed to the USSR during 1946 and 1947.
- 2. The Majdampek region in northeast Tugoslavia, west of Zajecar between the Darmbe and Timok rivers, is relatively unknown, but it merits close awcention. Formerly the only mines in the area were for coal, gold, and copper. The Germans, however, opened up a large chromium mine and later developed smaller mines for antimony, silver, ainc, and copper. The chromium mines were exploited recklessly by the Germans. Lately, on orders from the Seviet Union, the same type of explcitation has been resumed and increased. There are over 10,000 forced workers in this region. The total production of precious metal obtained from these mines is sent to the USSR by the way of the Danube.
- 3. The famous Bor copper mines in the immediate vicinity of Majdampek are working at full capacity, somewhat over 40 percent above pre-war production. There are now about 6,000 workers at Bor. Both the Bor and Majdanpek mines have been connected by railway to the Danmbe, thus facilitating the remeral of production of ore.
- 4. The new magnesium, tin, and lead mines in the Sanda-k province in scuthwest Serbia, not far from Novi Pasar extend over an area 20 kilosoters in dismeter. More than 50 Soviet engineers studied this region, end, according to present indications, it will be fully exploited. A special railway is being laid out from Mitrovica and it is perhaps already in use. Ruge quantities of minerals are ready to be removed.
- 5. The Prepca mines for lead, tin, and sine, near Mitrovica, at a distance of about 50 kilometers from the above mentioned mines, probably have the same geological base. About 10,000 workers are employed there. The ore is transported by rail via Mis to the USSR. Production is presumably so great that, because of a deficiency of transport facilities, the USSR has placed certain amounts (an estimated 15,000 tons) at the dismosition of the lugoslave.

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6. Special interest has recently been evident in the excavations and prospecting in the area around the Yugosalv-Bulgarian border where there are allegedly great quantities of pitchblende and thorism. Only the Soviets are working in this area without assistance from Yugoslav chemists and engineers. Several mines have also been developed nearby in Bulgaria.

lugoslavia delivered to the USSR minerals valued at 21 billion dinars from Serbia alone. This figure is only of statistical value, since an actual settlement with the Soviet Union will probably never take place. In return, the USSR has sent Yugoslavia o negligible

amount of material for mine improvement and possibly military supplies.

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